

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00

PRS-01 /030 W

-----180550Z 121369 /12

R 172050Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8104

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 6172

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, VE

SUBJECT: CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS ARGENTINA-VENEZUELA

1. AMBASSADOR MARIANO TIRADO, CHIEF TRANSPORT DIVISION, VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WISHES USG, ESPECIALLY CAB, TO BE APPRISED OF THE PRESENT SITUATION OF CIVIL AVIATION TALKS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND VENEZUELA.

2. TIRADO STATED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE VIRTUALLY BROKEN DOWN, ALTHOUGH THERE IS TO BE ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS. ARGENTINA IS DEMANDING WHAT TIRADO CALLS THE KEYS TO VIASA, BY ASKING FOR FIFTH-FREEDOM RIGHTS CARACAS-MIAMI-NEW YORK, CARACAS-SAN FRANCISCO/ LOS ANGELES AND CARACAS-EUROPE. THIS IS COUNTER TO VENEZUELAN POLICY WHICH (1) PROTECTS CARRIERS DESIGNATED IN ANY BILATERALS AND (2) REQUIRES THAT TRAFFIC BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES BE CARRIED PRIMARILY BY CARRIERS OF THOSE COUNTRIES. FURTHERMORE, VENEZUELA FEELS THAT A ROUTE SHOULD NOT BE BUILT PRINCIPALLY ON THE INCOME FROM FIFTH FREEDOM TRAFFIC.

3. ARGENTINA HAS MADE VEILED THREATS TO VENEZUELA TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EFFECT THAT IT WILL DENOUNCE ANY SOUTH AMERICAN GOVERNMENT NOT GRANTING AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS THESE OR SIMILAR RIGHTS AS A TOOL OR SLAVE OF U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT AND CAB POLICIES. SIMILAR THREATS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN PRESS ARTICLE IN ARGENTINA.

4. TIRADO STATED THAT TALKS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND COLOMBIA

ARE COMMENCING TODAY AND THAT ARGENTINA HAS MADE SIMILAR REQUEST TO COLOMBIA. TIRADO WAS TOLD BY HIS COLOMBIAN COUNTERPART THAT COLOMBIA HAS NO INTENTION OF GRANTING THESE RIGHTS.

5. REGRETFULLY, ACCORDING TO TIRADO, ECUADOR HAS GRANTED ARGENTINA FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS QUITO-U.S.

6. TIRADO FEELS THAT ARGENTINA IS DEMANDING THESE RIGHTS FROM VENEZUELA AND FROM COLOMBIA IN ORDER TO USE THEM AS ARGUMENT WITH CAB IN AN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN GATEWAYS IN THE U.S.

7. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE RECENT VISIT OF ARGENTINA'S PRESIDENT TO VENEZUELA, WHICH RESULTED IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP, MIGHT NOT CAUSE A POLITICAL DECISION TO BE MADE IN FAVOR OF ARGENTINA'S CIVIL AVIATION DEMANDS. TIRADO STATED THAT ARGENTINA HAS MADE SEVERAL DEMANDS DURING THIS VISIT WHICH LEFT GOV OFFICIALS WITH WHAT HE TERMS A BAD TASTE IN ITS MOUTH. TIRADO WAS NOT WILLING TO GO INTO DETAILS BUT MENTIONED, AS ONE EXAMPLE, AN ARGENTINE DEMAND THAT VENEZUELA CHANGE ITS WHEAT SOURCE FROM THE US/CANADA TO ARGENTINA. SINCE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND VENEZUELA IS HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF ARGENTINA, TIRADO STATED THAT GOV DOES NOT FEEL THAT SUCH A DEMAND WOULD BE CONDUCIVE TO ACCEPTABLE COMMERCIAL REATIONS.
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